



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Governor

Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

23 January 2009

Tom Celio, Deputy Director  
El Dorado County Department of Transportation  
2441 Headington Road  
Placerville, CA 95667

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
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## ***DRAFT CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER, RUBICON TRAIL, EL DORADO COUNTY***

Enclosed for your information and comment is a draft Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for the El Dorado County portion of the Rubicon Trail. We understand that El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for providing oversight of the Rubicon Trail within El Dorado County as a public road, and therefore the DOT has been named on the draft CAO as the "Discharger". Staff's inspections during the summer of 2008 identified that the Rubicon Trail has not been adequately managed, and this mismanagement has resulted in water quality impacts which include sediment discharges to surface waters, human sanitation problems, and soil and water contamination from petroleum-based automotive fluids.

The draft CAO requires that the DOT take all reasonable steps to cease the discharge of sediment and other wastes due to motorized use of the Rubicon Trail to waters of the state and to immediately implement a vehicle use reduction plan to address wheeled motorized use during wet weather conditions. If adopted as proposed, the draft CAO would further require the DOT to take the following steps:

- Within 12 weeks following signing of the final CAO, submit an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan to address sediment, human waste, and petroleum-based spills on the Rubicon Trail.
- As soon as possible after approval of the O&M Plan and no later than within 16 weeks following signing of the final CAO, begin implementing the approved O&M Plan.
- By **30 September 2009**, complete O&M Plan projects proposed for the season.
- By **31 October 2009**, submit the first annual report regarding trail use and maintenance activities conducted during 2009. Also report on the permitting system and strategies to address human waste and petroleum products.
- By **30 September 2010**, complete installation of bridges at the Ellis Creek and the Gerle Creek crossings

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

In order to conserve resources, this letter only transmits paper copies of the documents to the Discharger. Interested persons may download documents from the Water Board's website at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/index.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml). Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting the Regional Water Quality Control Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

We look forward to discussing any comments or recommendations you may have about the draft CAO, and recommend that you contact staff to arrange a meeting. The public comment period for the enclosed draft CAO ends on **23 February 2009**. All written comments must be received by that date and all meetings should be scheduled prior to that time.

If you have any questions regarding the draft Order, or would like to set up a meeting, please contact Sue McConnell at (916) 464-4798 or [smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov).

WENDY S. WYELS, Chief  
Compliance and Enforcement Section

Enclosure: Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order

cc (w/o enc): Patrick Pulupa, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB, Sacramento  
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